40 Allen Coit Road Huntington, MA 01050-9770 May 27, 1999

Dr. Michael Friedman Lead Deputy Commissioner Food and Drug Administration 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471 Rockville, MD 20857

0809 '99 JUN-7 P2:02

Dear Dr. Friedman,

We are writing regarding our "right to know", regarding genetically engineered foods. It is our understanding that many of the ingredients of some of the foods that we consume are from sources which have been genetically engineered. They may be engineered to produce a plant which will have longer shelf-life, or be drought resistant, or become immune to the effects of herbicides and pesticides, or a number of reasons of rationalization put forth by the industry.

However, it is our understanding that, at this time, no indication of genetic engineering is required on the packaging of such foods. We feel that it is <u>imperative</u> that, from a consumers standpoint, we **must** be informed, so that we can decide whether we wish to purchase such items or not. Regardless of what the industry may say, the long-term effects on humans, and indeed on the entire life-form structure, are unknown. We know that many "technological advances" have proven to be "regressions" years or perhaps decades later.

We urge you, please, to take steps to prevent this genetic engineering of our food supply from continuing. If not, PLEASE insure that the consumer will be made aware of any such ingredients by indications on labels.

Thank you for reviewing this.

Sincerely,

Miriam W. Watkins

James H. Watkins

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Jim Watkins Miriam Watkins 40 Allen Coit Rd. Huntington MA 01050

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